

# Grade 9 Achievement Test

## English Language Arts Part B: Reading

June 1994

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# Grade 9 Achievement Test

## English Language Arts

### Part B: Reading

#### *Questions Booklet*

##### **Description**

**Part B: Reading** of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 2 booklets:

- the Readings Booklet contains 8 reading selections and 3 visuals,
- the Questions Booklet contains 65 questions.

**You have 1 1/2 hours to complete this test.**

##### **Instructions**

- Be sure that you have a **Readings Booklet**, a **Questions Booklet**, and an **Answer Sheet**.
- On the answer sheet provided, use **only** an HB pencil to mark the **correct** or **best** answer for each question, as shown in the following example:

A rose is

- A. a fruit
- B. a flower
- C. an animal
- D. an automobile

##### *Answer Sheet*

(A) (B) (C) (D)

- Mark only **one** answer for each question. If you change an answer, erase your first mark **completely**.

- Make sure that the number of the question on your answer sheet matches the number of the question you are answering.

- You may write in the test booklet. However, you **must** place your answers on the answer sheet provided.

- You may **not** use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.

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**I. Read “The Phone Call” on pages 1 and 2 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 8.**

1. To “wing it” (line 60) means to act
  - A. decisively
  - B. spontaneously
  - C. immediately
  - D. intelligently
2. The mood of the narrator before placing the phone call is one of
  - A. nervousness
  - B. confidence
  - C. frustration
  - D. satisfaction
3. The narrator’s **internal** conflict is shown through his
  - A. actual words
  - B. body language
  - C. thought processes
  - D. nervous actions
4. Which question seems artificial for this narrator?
  - A. “Noreen, do you know what the homework is for biology tomorrow?”
  - B. “Noreen, how would you like to share an evening in paradise with me?”
  - C. “Noreen, what are you doing Friday night?”
  - D. “Noreen, I was wondering if you’d like to go to the Graduation Dance with me.”
5. The irony in this story comes from the author’s use of
  - A. foreshadowing
  - B. a sarcastic tone
  - C. flashback
  - D. surprise ending

6. Throughout most of the story, the narrator is

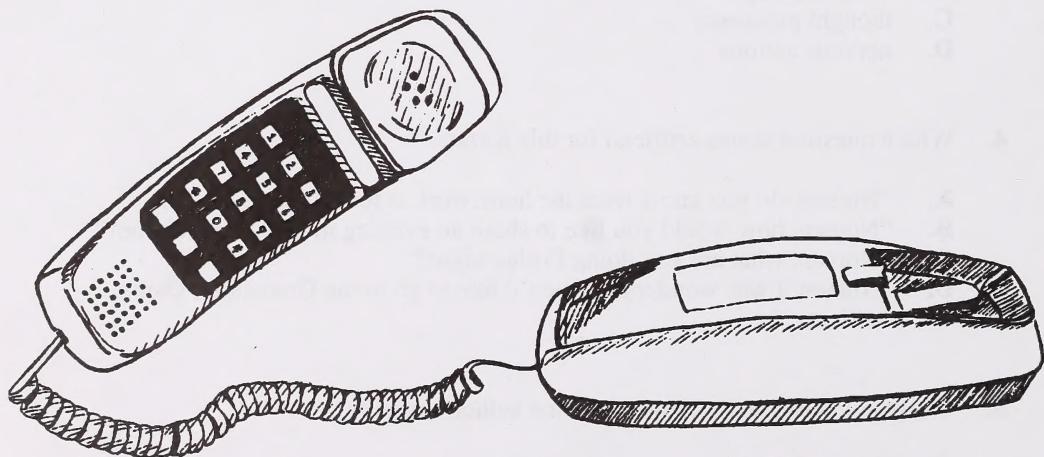
- A. confident
- B. indecisive
- C. relaxed
- D. forceful

7. The author's style is shown through

- A. character description
- B. colourful vocabulary
- C. imaginary dialogue
- D. setting details

8. The author's purpose is to

- A. entertain
- B. inform
- C. persuade
- D. instruct



**II. Read “The Clippers” on page 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 9 to 13.**

9. The **main** purpose of the first paragraph is to

- A. argue the strengths of the clipper
- B. contrast clippers and steamships
- C. introduce the clipper
- D. list the kinds of clippers

10. The **main** idea in the second paragraph is **best** summed up by

- A. “A major event that spurred clipper development”
- B. “the Far East was fountainhead to a bustling tea trade”
- C. “Everything conspired to make the dashing clipper the ideal vessel for the times”
- D. “The mood of the competitors was at times closer to hysteria than commercial enthusiasm”

11. The author believes that if cargo space had not been sacrificed for speed, the

- A. clipper might still be in use today
- B. clipper’s life span would have been no different
- C. clipper’s decline would have been more rapid
- D. clipper might have lasted longer

12. At the height of clipper popularity, the **most** important factor about a clipper was its

- A. passenger capacity
- B. speed
- C. cargo capacity
- D. reliability

13. The word “demise” as used in line 26 means

- A. unpopularity
- B. beginning
- C. end
- D. popularity



**III. Read “The Flood-Tide” on page 4 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 14 to 22.**

**14.** The man writes the woman’s name in the sand

- A. neatly
- B. thoughtfully
- C. effortlessly
- D. carelessly

**15.** In line 4, the expression “flux of sand” suggests that the sand is

- A. smooth
- B. packed
- C. dry
- D. changing

**16.** The “long, thin fingers” (line 7) are the

- A. silver webs
- B. strokes in the sand
- C. girl’s fingers
- D. water’s edge

**17.** The word “subside” as used in line 11 means to

- A. roll in
- B. ease in
- C. creep up
- D. roll out

**18.** The woman wrote the man’s name

- A. in sand under the “grey waters”
- B. “upon the flux of sand”
- C. in sand the waves could not reach
- D. where the man had written hers

19. The man's action shows

- A. affection
- B. devotion
- C. concern
- D. disinterest

20. The woman's action shows

- A. affection
- B. devotion
- C. concern
- D. disinterest

21. In this poem, the poet is suggesting that

- A. time, like the sea, destroys love
- B. love is not always mutually felt
- C. love is carefree and careless
- D. one should enjoy love while time permits

22. The poet suggests a similarity between

- A. the man and the waves
- B. the man and the woman
- C. the woman and the tide
- D. the woman and the sea

**IV. Examine the cartoon on page 5 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 23 to 25.**

23. In the first frame, Peppermint Patti **most likely** is

- A. hoping Snoopy can help her with her problems
- B. reflecting upon all the things that have gone wrong recently
- C. trying to get attention from Snoopy because no one else will give her any
- D. sitting down to escape her problems for a while

24. The advice Snoopy gives to Peppermint Patti is that she should

- A. talk with a friend
- B. show that a kiss makes people happy
- C. listen to a friend in need
- D. show people that she cares for them

25. Peppermint Patti's mood changes from

- A. disappointment to optimism
- B. indifference to relief
- C. despair to peace of mind
- D. frustration to surprise

**V. Read the excerpt from “Nellie McClung: A Patient Suffragist” on pages 6 and 7 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 26 to 34.**

26. The phrase “A Patient Suffragist” suggests that Nellie McClung was

- A. persistent
- B. passive
- C. unhealthy
- D. intimidated

27. The word “eloquent” in line 19 means

- A. extravagant
- B. long-winded
- C. interesting
- D. fluent

28. The **most effective** method Nellie McClung used to gain widespread support for her cause was

- A. writing petitions
- B. role reversal
- C. public speaking
- D. running for parliament

29. According to this article, the strongest opposition to Nellie McClung’s suffragist movement came from

- A. her own sense of obligation to her family
- B. her husband and mother-in-law
- C. the government
- D. other women

30. According to this article, Nellie McClung believed that

- A. economic independence for women was important
- B. women should be paid for housework
- C. women should be prevalent in politics
- D. Canada’s laws should favour women

31. According to this article, the turning point in the suffragist movement was Nellie McClung's

- A. publication of her novel, *Sowing Seeds in Danny*, in 1908
- B. petition for women's rights
- C. election to the legislature
- D. staging of the mock parliament on January 28, 1914

32. The authors' attitude toward Nellie McClung seems to be one of

- A. contempt
- B. admiration
- C. envy
- D. tolerance

33. Nellie McClung's actions were motivated by

- A. her desire to have her book published
- B. the Women's Christian Temperance Union
- C. the unfairness of the law for women
- D. her desire to become famous

34. Based on this article, the word that **best** describes Nellie McClung is

- A. self-righteous
- B. dedicated
- C. self-serving
- D. humourous

**VI. Read the poems “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred” and “Words to a Grandchild” on page 8 of your Readings Booklet, and then answer questions 35 to 43.**

**35.** In “Words to a Grandchild,” the author writes “Things will whisper their secrets” (line 3). In “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred,” these “things” could be

- A. men, mothers, and children
- B. the sons of the earth
- C. strands in the web of life
- D. pine needles, sandy shores, and insects

**36.** The word “complacency” (line 11) in “Words to a Grandchild” is **closest** in meaning to

- A. ignorance
- B. self-importance
- C. self-indulgence
- D. indifference

**37.** In the poem “Words to a Grandchild,” the pronoun “it” in line 15 **most likely** refers to

- A. listening to the hour of magic
- B. being responsible to your fellow man
- C. studying the change of the seasons
- D. being sensitive to nature

**38.** In the poem “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred,” the phrase “sons of the earth” (line 6) refers to

- A. human beings
- B. children
- C. environmentalists
- D. native leaders

**39.** The theme of the poem “Every Part of This Earth is Sacred” is

- A. apathy toward life
- B. reverence for the earth
- C. the harshness of nature
- D. joy in nature

40. The authors' tone in these two poems is

- A. pessimistic
- B. reflective
- C. optimistic
- D. apathetic

41. The authors of these two poems speak with the

- A. enthusiasm of the young
- B. innocence of children
- C. wisdom of the mature
- D. enthusiasm of the elders

42. A common theme in both of these poems is that

- A. humans destroy the earth through industrial expansion
- B. humans try to imitate nature through technology
- C. nature is all-encompassing and humans are merely a part of the whole
- D. nature and humans cannot coexist peacefully

43. These poems would appeal **most** to people concerned with

- A. our environment
- B. developing resources
- C. unraveling nature's secrets
- D. the previous generation



**VII. Read the consumer information pamphlet “Look Who’s Stealing Your Electricity” on page 9 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 44 and 45.**

**44.** This consumer information pamphlet was **most likely** published to

- A.** teach us how to test our appliances
- B.** encourage us to use less energy
- C.** force us to think about how we use appliances
- D.** aid us in prolonging the life of our appliances

**45.** A two dollar bill is suggested for the test because

- A.** it associates energy saving with money saving
- B.** the one dollar coin is too thick
- C.** this is approximately the amount one can save in a month
- D.** it blows out easily if air is escaping

**VIII. Read the excerpt from *The Guardian of Isis* on page 10 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 46 to 53.**

**46.** The word “plaits” (line 2) means

- A.** folds
- B.** waves
- C.** curves
- D.** braids

**47.** The sentence “Her blatant admiration warmed him inside” (line 3) suggests that Jody felt

- A.** embarrassed
- B.** nervous
- C.** pleased
- D.** important

**48.** From this excerpt, it can be inferred that during the winter

- A.** it was very cold
- B.** food was scarce
- C.** people did not socialize
- D.** their skin stretched and hurt

**49.** The “poor weak dot of light” (line 25) refers to

- A.** Ra
- B.** a star
- C.** their home
- D.** Earth

**50.** Jody had a difficult time believing that

- A.** his ancestors were from Earth
- B.** Earth was small and reddish-gold
- C.** the Councillors told legends
- D.** he had been born on Isis

51. According to the details in this excerpt, Isis was

- A. a star
- B. inhabited by settlers from Earth
- C. close to Earth
- D. overseen by a Guardian

52. This excerpt is an example of

- A. science fiction
- B. mystery
- C. historical fiction
- D. mythology

53. The inhabitants of Isis were **probably** celebrating

- A. the arrival of another group of inhabitants
- B. some of the councillors and elders arriving from Home
- C. Earth's appearance signaling the end of a long harsh winter
- D. Ra's disappearance

**IX. Use the “Summary of the Dewey Decimal Classification System” on page 11 of your Readings Booklet to answer questions 54 to 57.**

**54.** If you were given a dog for your birthday and wanted information on how to care for it, you should look under classification number

- A.** 030
- B.** 574
- C.** 590
- D.** 636

**55.** If you were doing a research project on Alberta poetry, where would you find the **most specific** information?

- A.** 971.23
- B.** 920/928
- C.** 819.1
- D.** 030

**56.** How many major classifications are there in the Dewey Decimal System?

- A.** 9
- B.** 10
- C.** 500
- D.** 990

**57.** In the Dewey Decimal System, works of fiction would be found under

- A.** General Works
- B.** Languages and Dictionaries
- C.** Arts
- D.** Literature

**X. Read “Sarah Tops” on pages 12 to 14 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 58 to 64.**

58. What had the narrator been doing at the museum?

- A. Researching dinosaurs
- B. Checking out a murder
- C. Working on a term paper
- D. Visiting an exhibit

59. The man had hidden in the museum because he

- A. was trying to get away from his gang
- B. had stolen a diamond from the museum
- C. was trying to get away from the museum guards
- D. had looked for Sarah Tops

60. The murder took place

- A. beside the dinosaur exhibit
- B. outside the jewelry store
- C. near the police station
- D. outside the museum

61. The woman who found the dying man **most likely** felt

- A. distressed
- B. indifferent
- C. calm
- D. anxious

62. The phrase “It looked like a huge, underground cave” (lines 73–74) is an example of

- A. metaphor
- B. simile
- C. suspense
- D. exaggeration

**63.** In the phrase “Dad put it in an envelope” (line 92), “it” refers to

- A. chewing gum
- B. dinosaur bone
- C. a note
- D. a jewel

**64.** “Try—Sarah—Tops” actually refers to a

- A. dinosaur
- B. secret code
- C. cake store
- D. toy

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**XI.** Examine “Tribute to Henry Ford 1, 2, 3,” on page 15 of your Readings Booklet and answer question 65.

**65.** What modern scenes do these concrete poems represent?

- A. Highway driving
- B. Highway menaces
- C. Traffic patterns
- D. Traffic jams









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